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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

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1. [REDACTED] Talked with Representative James F. Battin regarding his letter to the Director on the subject of Soviet troop strength in Cuba. In his letter Mr. Battin referred specifically to the Joseph Alsop column. I spent approximately an hour with Mr. Battin (some of this time was spent in recalling our days in law school together). With respect to his inquiry, I advised Mr. Battin that I could be no more specific than the President was in his press conference of 31 October. I gave Mr. Battin an excerpt containing the President's remarks on this subject. In a friendly way, Mr. Battin said he had already received this excerpt from the Defense Department whom he had also queried on this subject, adding that this really didn't give him what he wanted but that he would not press the matter further with us. During our conversation, Mr. Battin informed me he had been made chairman of a Republican Party subcommittee on Cuba. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Mr. Battin said he regarded it as quite a responsibility. He then touched on a number of issues in the foreign affairs field ranging from the recognition of revolutionary governments in Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic to Cuba and also to domestic issues such as the civil rights situation. Battin obviously had a partisan position on these subjects and I made no comment whatsoever with respect to these subjects. I believe Battin has a genuine interest in the Agency and for this reason told him that we would be happy to have him visit us for lunch sometime at his convenience so that he might know a little more of our organization and function. Mr. Battin said he would like this but no specific arrangements were made.